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BUENOS AIRES 1630

DECAPTIONED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, PINS, AR
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINS SCHNEIDER CASE

REF BA 1503

1. FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES REQUESTED THAT I CALL ON HIM AT MINISTRY MARCH 7 AT 0830. PURPOSE WAS OBVIOUSLY TO POUR OIL ON TROUBLED WATERS BEFORE ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS ARRIVAL ON MARCH 10. VIGNES INDICATED THAT MORE FORMAL AND PRECISE RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE OF MARCH 5. (SEE REFTTEL) AND AIDE MEMOIRE OF MARCH 6 (SEE SEPTTEL) WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, HE HAD WANTED TO ASSURE ME THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DOUBLE STANDARD IN EGAN AND ANZORREGUY CASES. IN FIRST, HE NOW CONVINCED TERRORISTS HAD KIDNAPPED EGAN WITH PURPOSE OF KILLING HIM; HENCE, THEY HAD MADE DEMANDS WHICH WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET. IN SECOND CASE, SCHNEIDER HAD ALREADY OPTED FOR DEPORTATION AND PROCESS HAD BEGUN BEFORE JUDGE ANZORREGUY WAS KIDNAPPED. GOA HAD NOT NEGOTIATED WITH OR ACCEDED TO DEMANDS OF TERRORISTS.

2. VIGNES THEN REITERATED GOA'S ASSURANCES OF CONTINUED PROTECTION FOR US EMBASSY PERSONNEL ARGENTINA. GOA HAD CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY AND WOULD DO EVERYTHING WITHIN ITS POWER TO ASSURE THEIR SAFETY.

3. SINCE I HAD ALREADY GONE OVER THE SCHNEIDER CASE WITH THE UNDERSECRETARY PREVIOUS EVENING AND PRESENTED

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AN AIDE MEMOIRE ON THE SUBJECT, IN THIS INSTANCE I CONFINED MYSELF TO COMMENT THAT THERE WERE STILL SOME UNEXPLAINED ASPECTS OF THE SCHNEIDER CASE.

4. IN PARTING, VIGNES SAID HE VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO DISCUSSIONS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS ON MARCH 10. WHEN PROBLEM OF TRSNPORTING LATTER QUICKLY FROM EZEIZA TO AEROPARQUE WAS RAISED, VIGNES VOLUNTEERED ARGENTINE HELICOPTER AND SAID HE WOULD GIVE ORDER THAT ONE BE MADE AVAILABLE. SUBJSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, THIS WAS CHANGED TO ORDER TO MAKE PLANE AVAILABLE, WHICH WAS DONE.

HILL
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